

does not want to do that because they want to continue the debate and the bickering that goes on, and I think that is a mistake.

The second problem is that no one is recognizing the fact that in the last year we have lost \$4 trillion in surplus value in this country and we are now eating into the Social Security surplus. And here is another \$150 billion. There are some good ideas in here. I like some of the ideas. But at some point somebody is going to have to pay for it. The taxpayers are going to have to pay for it. My children will have to pay for it, your children. We are just adding on to the debt again. Last year we were debating how quickly we could pay down the national debt. Now we are talking about adding another \$150 billion in debt and digging into Social Security.

In the long run that is not going to do anything. And so much of the stimulus package does not even occur until the out-years. The economy will be well out of a recession, I hope, by 2003, 2004. But this package is cutting into the surplus or what used to be the surplus all through those years.

I think we have two problems here. Let us pass an unemployment compensation extension today that can go to the President's desk today so we can help the people today, and we will come back after the President's Day work week and we can continue to go back and figure out how we do a bill and how we protect the taxpayers from a mounting public debt because of the loss of a surplus.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DUNN).

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, this is the third time we have had to pass this stimulus bill. The gentleman from Texas claims that we are creating a log jam in our process in order to defeat the items in this bill. I think on the other hand it is the Senate that is creating the log jam. The Senate did not have the courage to pass more than 13 weeks of unemployment to this body. How many times are we going to have to pass this bill before we can get the Senate to wake up and break that log jam?

The Senate sent a bill back to us with 13 weeks of unemployment. No potential extension for States like my State, second highest unemployment in this Nation, Washington State. The bill that they sent over had no health care coverage. That is a huge problem. I have a problem, 7.1 percent unemployment in the State of Washington, and the Senate sends over to us a bill that gives those folks 13 weeks of unemployment insurance but no coverage for health care or for anything else.

I want to talk about this bill, Mr. Speaker. This bill contains a \$37 billion amount that would be used for retraining of folks who lost their jobs since last March 15, and includes over \$13 billion for health coverage alone. And we

do not do this coverage just for COBRA people, for people who worked for big companies who get off that job and can buy their own COBRA insurance. We also cover the people who work for small businesses, under 20 people, that do not have access to COBRA. That is very important. Our bill is much broader, much deeper.

Let us talk about these rich people whose marginal tax rate is being reduced. These marginal people are 660,000 entrepreneurs in my State of Washington alone. These rich people who are in the 27 percent rate bracket that we want to bring down immediately to 25, they are that single school teacher who is earning \$30,000 a year who cannot even afford to live in the community where her school exists and has to drive miles every day. This is the rich person that our opposition talks about, Mr. Speaker, that we are trying to help. You bet we are trying to help that person. We are trying to help that person in many different ways.

The reality is that the Senate has delayed this bill. For the third time we will send this bill back over to the Senate. We have a President who is willing to sign this bill, a bill that contains rebate checks for low-income working folks who did not get checks last year, a bill that includes accelerated depreciation so small businesses and businesses of every size can catch up and make purchases for their company and buy those computers which would help stimulate that portion of our economy. I would like to put death tax permanence in this bill, but we are keeping this bill clear so we can move it through as fast as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Senate to get off their chairs, to stand up for the people at home, the people who are going to lose their jobs in my district because of Boeing, the folks who are losing their jobs all over this country. See the wisdom of this bill and the delicate balance we have defined and pass this bill out as we pass it today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Members are reminded to not urge action on the part of the other body.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), who represents a number of unemployed people who used to work for Enron.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I believe what is recognized by the unemployment assistance provided by the other body is that we are in a crisis. We are in a recession. We helped the airlines; but yet with 12,000 and thousands of employees being laid off we did not help those employees. As the months and weeks got longer and longer, we saw more and more companies across the Nation laying off hard-working Americans.

More than 1 million jobless workers have had their unemployment benefits expire since September 11. And, Mr. Speaker, 2 million will likely exhaust their regular unemployment again in the first half of 2002, inability to pay mortgages and car notes and tuition payments and, most of all, health care.

What we are saying today, Mr. Speaker, if we are truly sincere about the thousands of ex-Enron employees that are laid off and all other employees across this Nation who are telling us that they will have no unemployment insurance, no ability to pay their health care in the next couple of months, let us pass a stand-alone bill.

I had last night, Mr. Speaker, an amendment that would have extended the unemployment benefits for a year. It was not tied to the unemployment percentages in your State. And the reason is if you are unemployed and your State happens to have a 4.10, 4.1, 4.2 unemployment rate, and it is higher than the baseline, you are still hurting. You still need the time. You still are unemployed. Yes, we want jobs. And I would like to join my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in establishing a premise upon which we can secure more jobs. But these are hard-working Americans who were laid off. They had jobs. They want jobs but they need to survive now.

Let us vote up or down on the unemployment stimulus package that deals with unemployment only, and let us make sure we get that passed. I would have wanted this amendment to be in, but it did not happen. And let us avoid exploding and taking away from the Social Security Trust Fund. Let us do it right and work together. I ask my colleagues to defeat the previous question in the rule so we can work on behalf of the workers of the United States of America.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule and of the underlying economic security and worker assistance act.

It is Valentine's Day, Mr. Speaker; but there is obviously not a lot of love in this room. And there should be. One million Americans have fallen into unemployment this year. While Congress focuses on issues that 1 or 2 percent of the American people think are urgent, a million American families are struggling under the weight of this recession. It is our hope on this side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker, that the third time is the charm. But I want to speak specifically to several comments made by the gentleman from Texas in a passionate and typically eloquent way.

He accused this measure offered by the majority of being cynical. And I do not know, Mr. Speaker, I am new to this town, but it seems to me that what is more cynical: Trying to help